

**Scarboro Landfill  
Street, Maryland  
Harford County  
(MD-236)**

**Site Location**

The Scarboro Landfill is located on Scarboro Road between Route 440 and Deer Creek in northern Harford County. The landfill occupies approximately 10 acres on the active Harford Waste Disposal Center (HWDC). The surrounding property is primarily agricultural and residential. Southwest of the Landfill is the H.P. White Laboratory, a commercial weapons testing laboratory.

**Site History**

The site consists of a former "open dump" which Harford County operated from approximately 1956 until 1985 (the area of concern). The old dump was used by local residents for the open burning of trash. Harford County first obtained a permit to operate a landfill at the site in 1980. A modern, lined sanitary landfill (HWDC) was permitted in December 1985 and opened in July 1987. Part of the liner for the HWDC was installed over the Scarboro Landfill.

**Environmental Investigation**

Due to the discovery of volatile organic compounds in the groundwater on the Landfill property in 1985, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene required Harford County to conduct a groundwater investigation in order to renew its operating permit in 1989.

In 1991, a Phase I Investigation was conducted by Harford County. It was determined that the extent of the impacted groundwater was limited to an area southwest of the old landfill, where contaminants discharge to and migrate underneath a small unnamed tributary to Deer Creek. The primary constituents detected were chlorinated hydrocarbons, freons, and ketones. Elevated levels of metals were also found, including manganese, nickel and lead. The report also documented the contamination of some upgradient domestic wells with low levels of organic compounds, which were later determined to have been impacted by other sources.

In October 1993, Harford County conducted a Phase II Hydrogeologic Investigation. The report further quantified the groundwater situation and recommended a remediation system to address the problem. In 1994, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) proposed the Scarboro Landfill for inclusion in the State Deferral Pilot Program for the purpose of allowing the State to direct and perform oversight of response actions at the site. Concurrently, EPA was considering proposing the site for listing on the National Priorities List (NPL). However, in December 1994, Harford County signed a Consent Order with MDE under the State Deferral Program.

By 1996, separate work plans for a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) and an interim groundwater remediation system had been prepared. Additionally, a schedule of quarterly Task Force meetings between MDE, Harford County and the local citizens had been implemented. By September 1997, construction of a groundwater treatment system had begun. The groundwater treatment system, which began operating in February 1998, uses metal oxidation and filtration to reduce the concentration of dissolved metals and granular activated carbon to adsorb organic compounds.

In May 1998, Harford County submitted an RI to MDE, which included additional analytical data and a human health risk assessment. MDE approved a revised RI in October 1998.

### **Current Status**

Late in November 1999, MDE approved the FS prepared by Harford County. The Proposed Plan for the site included institutional controls, containment (by a cap), and groundwater remediation, all of which have already been accomplished. The groundwater treatment system is to operate until specific monitoring wells downgradient of the Landfill (which are listed in the FS) demonstrate no contaminants present above Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for two consecutive semiannual sampling events. Additionally, long-term monitoring of wells surrounding the HWDC is required under a Refuse Disposal Permit under MDE's Solid Waste Program. If an increasing trend is observed in which MCLs are exceeded for two consecutive sampling events, the system will be restarted.

The Harford County Health Department's regular sampling of downgradient residential wells show no impact from the Landfill. Those residential properties which are initially impacted by contaminated groundwater have since been acquired by Harford County.

### **Contact Person**

Arthur O'Connell	Maryland Department of the Environment Site and Brownfields Assessments/State Superfund Division	410-537-3493
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